

Evening Telegraph

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1870.

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, from its original establishment, has been in the receipt of telegraphic news from the New York Associated Press, which consists of the *Tribune*, *Times*, *Herald*, *World*, *Sun*, *Journal of Commerce*, *Evening Post*, *Commercial Advertiser*, and *Evening Express*. The success which has attended our enterprise is, in itself, a sufficient evidence of the freshness, fullness, and reliability of the news which we have received from this source. Last March we entered into a special contract by which THE EVENING TELEGRAPH has the exclusive use of the news furnished in the afternoon by the Associated Press to its own members, the *North American*, *Inquirer*, *Ledger*, *Press*, *Age*, *Record*, and *German Democrat*, of this city, and the leading journals of the East, North, West and South; and hereafter THE TELEGRAPH will be the only evening paper published in this city in which the afternoon despatches of the Associated Press will appear.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 1 1/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

THE REPORTED ARMISTICE.

It is reported, on apparently good authority, that an armistice has been, or shortly will be, definitely arranged between the French and Germans. There has not yet been an official announcement on either side of its final ratification, but accounts from all quarters agree that it is under consideration; and while one rumor states that the exchange of signatures was made yesterday, others affirm that they will be exchanged to-day. M. Thiers has evidently been assiduously endeavoring for some time to attain the end which now seems so near at hand. Trochu also desires it as a manifest necessity for beleaguered Paris. The German leaders are not unwilling to grant it, and the principal opposition springs from some of the members of the Tours Government (who seem to fear that if a new Constituent Assembly is elected they will lose power), and from ultra Red Republicans.

An armistice, during which elections can be held throughout France, has become such an obvious necessity for the common good of all concerned in this terrible struggle, that we have no faith in the patriotism or common sense of the Frenchmen who oppose it. There is now no real government in the country. The Provisional authorities are powerless for good purposes. They have not only failed to relieve beleaguered cities, but they have confessed their inability to supply arms to the people, and their edicts have ceased to command obedience or respect. It is said that Napoleon still claims to be the true head of the nation, but even the Bonapartist pretensions are apparently divided between the imprisoned Emperor and the exiled Regency. Practically, at the moment when union, concentration, and an all-powerful government are more imperatively needed than at any former period in French history, anarchy prevails. The invaders have no foe worthy of their steel, and there is no army in the field to arouse their antagonism. In Paris the citizens have prepared for a gallant defense, but they cannot struggle long against the impending danger of starvation, and since the Tours Government has totally failed to send troops to their rescue, or to reopen their communications with the outside world, they have every reason to fear that, in the event of a continuance of hostilities, their escape from the dangers of bombardment would be quickly followed by the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives by famine. All the horrors connected with the protracted defense of Strasbourg and Metz would be intensified a hundred fold in the protracted defense of Paris, and it is wicked folly to impose such fearful miseries upon her citizens at a time when no good national object can thereby be achieved. The Tours Government is so nearly a non-entity that it matters little whether it consents to the armistice or not. The chief importance of its acquiescence would arise from its assistance in ordering elections throughout France and in increasing the general disposition to abide peacefully in their result. If it persistently refuses, however, to give the people an opportunity to decide for themselves the questions in which they are so vitally interested, at a time when its inability to protect them is so painfully apparent, it will soon lose all the little influence it now possesses and vanish into absolute nothingness at the first onset of a more vigorous administration.

From the armistice and the elections of a Constituent Assembly will probably spring peace between France and Germany. As this peace, however, will inevitably be repulsive to the national instincts, it is quite likely that all who are identified with it will become ob-

jects of popular odium, and it is not improbable that the controversies growing out of this subject will, in conjunction with the intense partisan antagonisms now prevailing, lead to a civil war. Those who feel that in surrendering to the inevitable they have done the best for their country that circumstances permitted, will not be disposed to submit tamely to unmerited obloquy, while those who consider that no circumstances can justify the surrender of a foot of French soil will heap infamy upon the prospective treaty-makers. If these germs of civil war bear no fruit, France may speedily regain a powerful position, in spite of the loss of a few of her provinces, but if the withdrawal of the Germans is to be followed by bloody internecine struggles, the chapter of French miseries, instead of being about to close, is only fairly beginning.

COUNCILS AND THE FIREMEN.

YESTERDAY a desperate effort was made in Councils to restore to active service, with the loss of but two months' pay, the Good Will Hose and Independence Fire Companies, who were suspended for rioting last July. In spite of the indignation which the scandalous conduct of a portion of the volunteer firemen has of late excited, and which has caused a movement of the most decided character in favor of a Paid Department, the disposition of many Councilmen to display a most culpable leniency towards the perpetrators of such offenses as the members of the two companies named were guilty of, was shown in a striking manner by the action of Common Council in consenting to the above mentioned proposition. In the Select branch, however, a commendable firmness was manifested, and the offending firemen were unable to procure sufficient votes to carry their measure through. The reasons given for the reinstatement upon the active list of the Good Will and Independence Companies was that they had entered upon an agreement by which hostile collisions would be avoided in the future. This agreement, which exists only under the signature of the presidents of the companies, with whom there is no assurance that the majority of the members they propose to represent have joined, is that if, in proceeding to a fire, one company wishes to pass the other, it must turn off to another street to do so, and that a hose carriage shall always give the track to a steam engine. This plan looks very well on paper, but the public are interested in knowing how much power the officers of the companies have to enforce it. The men who profess to be the representative volunteer firemen of Philadelphia are always eager to lay the blame of rioting upon hummers and hangers-on, who do not properly belong to the Fire Department, but there is no doubt that much of the outrageous performances that have lately disgusted all respectable citizens with the volunteer system were participated in almost entirely by the regularly enrolled members of the offending companies. The respectable firemen have shown themselves totally unable either to restrain their ruffianly comrades or to rid the engine-houses of the outsiders who do not belong there, and who are made responsible for all the sins of the legitimate members of the Fire Department. They cannot, therefore, expect that the public will believe in the power of the presidents of the Good Will and Independence Companies to prevent rioting in the future by any such agreement as that which they entered into for the purpose of inducing Councils to reinstate them, and the whole proceeding is marked by that puerile spirit that is characteristic of, as it is discredit to, the volunteer Fire Department. There is no doubt that Councils have been in a great measure responsible for the bad behavior of the firemen, by the readiness with which they have almost invariably interfered to reinstate companies suspended for bad conduct; and we are glad to record that enough members were found yesterday with sufficient pluck and determination to protect the public peace and to give the firemen a lesson by refusing to grant the petition for placing the Good Will and Independence Companies again upon the active list.

THE CENSUS.

A RESOLUTION for the appointment of a committee, to consist of the Mayor, the Presidents of Councils, and five citizens, to proceed to Washington and request of the President that the census of Philadelphia be retaken, was offered in Select Council yesterday, and after some discussion was postponed until next week, as was also a motion to retake the census of one ward in order to demonstrate the unreliability of the count made by Marshal Gregory and his assistants, with the view of founding a substantial claim for having the whole work performed over again at the expense of the United States. The responsibility for the palpable incorrectness of the census returns rests almost exclusively with Congress, which not only adopted a plan bad in itself, but did a great injustice to the great cities by ordering the count to be taken in the middle of the summer, when a large portion of the population are away from home. The census returns are of no value whatever so long as there is a doubt about their being within a reasonable degree of accuracy; and in such cities as Philadelphia and New York it is of the highest importance that the actual population should be known with as much definiteness as it is possible to command. As the returns made by Marshal Gregory can be proved to be a very long way from correctness, it is the duty of the Government to order a recount, and we hope sincerely that Councils will push the matter with the proper amount of vigor. If the Government will not retake the census, we must do it ourselves, but it is obviously the business of those who made the mistakes to correct them, and as the President has ordered a recount to be made in New York, the least he can do is to perform a similar act of justice for Philadelphia.

OBITUARY.

Charles Peters, Comedian.
This popular actor, whose death is reported to have occurred yesterday in New York, was born in Birmingham, England, April 15, 1825. He came to the United States in the fall of 1849, and made his first engagement in New York at Niblo's Garden in 1850, under Brougham & Chippendale's management. He was then engaged at the "Old Federal Street," Boston. After a travelling tour through the West he appeared at Wallack's, New York, in 1854. During this season he married Miss Biss, a daughter of J. H. Nickerson, the eccentric actor and manager. After continuing several seasons at Wallack's, Mr. Peters was engaged by Laura Keane for her great theatrical enterprise in New York, and afterwards travelled with Miss Keane throughout the country. In 1864 he was engaged by Montgomery Field, of the Boston Museum, in place of William Warren, who was then starring. He became a great favorite in Boston, and is regarded to this day by the Habittes as having been only second to Warren himself. A few years ago Mr. Peters was run over by a New York Third Avenue car, and was so severely injured that his temporary retirement from the stage became necessary. He was the recipient of a benefit at the New York Theatre, which yielded the sum of \$4000, an altogether unprecedented result, and which showed the esteem in which the genial actor was held. After his recovery from this accident, he resumed his profession, and at the time of his death was engaged at Booth's Theatre. His last appearance was as the "Gravedigger" in *Hamlet*. Mr. Peters was an actor of the first rank, broad and unctuous, but never descending to buffoonery. Like Burton, he was a man of literary tastes, with a general and liberal education. He was a huge favorite with his associates, no less than with the public.

Herr Carl Twisten.
Carl Twisten, one of the principal founders of the Fortschritt party of Germany, died recently in Prussia. This party had severe contentions with Bismarck and the Junkers between the years 1862 and 1865. The publication of a political pamphlet written by him in 1861 led to a duel between him and General Manteuffel, in which Twisten received a severe wound. He became a member of Parliament in 1862 and was prosecuted for a speech there delivered in 1866. He was also a founder of the national liberal party. He was in his fifty-first year at the time of his death, being born on the 23d of April, 1820.

Rev. Bernard C. Wolf.
A distinguished divine of the German Reformed Church, Rev. Bernard C. Wolf, died on Tuesday last at his home in Lancaster, Pa. He was then in his 76th year, and was born at Martinsburg, Virginia. He was educated at Chambersburg, but up to his 30th year was engaged in business. At that advanced age he began to study for the ministry, and in 1832 received a call to Easton. After remaining nine years he left that town to accept a professor's chair in the Theological Seminary at Mercersburg. This professorship he resigned in 1864, on account of failing health. He has since been living in retirement at Lancaster.

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